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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Gorna Oryakhovitsa Airfield	DATE DISTR.	14 December 1954
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
 THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

Location of Airfield

1. This airfield, 2400 x 1200 meters in size, lies 11 kilometers east of Gorna Oryakhovitsa,¹ between the Gorna Oryakhovitsa - Kardam (probably Kardam: N 43-23, E 26-17) railroad line and the Yantra River. The northwest corner of the field is 200 meters east of the next to the last bend in the Yantra; the northeast corner is 200 meters west of the point where the Yantra River forks; the southwest corner is 500 meters east of where the Gorna Oryakhovitsa-Kardam railroad line crosses the Gorna Oryakhovitsa-Kozarevets (N 43-08, E 25-49) highway; and the southeast corner of the field is 2400 meters east of the southwest corner of the railroad line to Kardam. The airfield forms a rectangle, with the long sides in an east-west direction.

25X1

Take-off Runways and Taxi Strips

2. The airfield has no starting runway with firm boundaries. However, the entire airfield from the west to the east side as well as most of the north to the south side has been rolled with gravel. This has resulted in a smooth and strong top permitting the take-off and landing of jet planes and also the heaviest transportation airplanes. Using the same technique, a 100 meter wide strip along the west side from the northwest to the southwest corner was laid out, which [redacted] will serve as a taxi strip. [redacted] jet airplanes and heavy transport planes take off many times. On the airfield, a crude oil roller is in continuous use.

25X1
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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR EV	X	FBI		AEC		OSI Ev	X		
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(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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25X1

-2-

Complement of the Airfield

3. The following are stationed at the field:
 - a. The 8 Bulgarian Air Fighter Regiment;
 - b. A parachute training course, independent of the Army; and
 - c. An Air Service Battalion.

The 8 Bulgarian Air Fighter Regiment

4. The 8 Bulgarian Fighter Regiment is composed, as follows:
 - a. A staff company;
 - b. A command section with two planes and two reserve planes;
 - c. An antiaircraft battery with six 37 mm. antiaircraft guns;
 - d. A signal company with radio, radar, and light signal platoons;
 - e. An ordnance platoon;
 - f. An engineer platoon;
 - g. A service unit;
 - h. A medical unit; and
 - i. Three fighter plane squadrons; the fighter plane squadrons have one staff platoon, which includes a signal, ordnance, and a transportation section, as well as three sections, each section having three planes.
5. The 8 Fighter Regiment has the following planes:
 - a. Eighteen FALCONS (MIG-15);
 - b. Forty FRANKS (YAK-9); and
 - c. Two Sokol liaison planes.

The regiment first received the FALCONS in April 1954. It is rumored among the soldiers that the regiment will be entirely equipped with FALCONS during this year.

6. The regiment is commanded by Colonel Atanas Yordanov.

Parachute Training Course

7. The instruction staff of this parachute training course consists of active officers and noncommissioned officers, with a total strength of 40 men. In addition, there is a staff of 30 men (cadre). Courses last six months, and are only held from April through September. In winter, the instruction personnel do regular service.
8. Sport and individual training lasts six months. The jumps follow, first from the tower, then from the airplane. In 1953, 400 passed the course. In 1954, there have been 350. CABS (LI-2) and COACH A (IL-12A) were used for jumping. These planes were taken from other airfields when necessary. Usually on Tuesday and Friday at about 7 a.m., two airplanes (CABS or COACHES) came to this airfield punctually and participated in the maneuvers. After the maneuvers were over, the planes returned to their bases, which are unknown.

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25X1

-3-

Air Service Battalion

9. The air service battalion consisted of four companies, including guard, transportation, ordnance, and signal company. The guard company is equipped with searchlights.

Buildings

10. All the buildings are located on the west side of the airfield. The control tower, 18 meters high, is concrete and is located at the northwest corner of the field (see #11 on Appendix). The tower has a flat roof and a balcony running around it. There are four concrete hangars to the south standing 80 meters apart on the west side. The hangars are 75 x 35 meters in size, and the walls have prefabricated concrete units, slate roof, sheet steel doors, jointed, facing the airfield area. There are three large storage buildings, each 50 x 20 meters in size, west of the hangars (see #4).
11. The airfield headquarters building is on the south side, south of the center line (see #6). A 2-story building houses the airfield guard and the offices of the inspecting officer. The barracks complex is west of this building, outside of the airfield area (see #7).
12. The airfield area is 500 x 600 meters in size, and is composed of the following buildings:
- a. Three 3-story buildings;
 - b. One 2-story building; and
 - c. Three 1-story buildings and a row of garages.
13. There are two jump towers with an iron frame in the northwest corner of the barracks complex. One tower is 18 meters high, and the other is 50 meters high. Both towers have built-in elevators. There is a 3-story building surrounded with a special fence in the barracks complex. The members of the nonmilitary parachute training course are quartered in this building.
14. There are no hardstands on this airfield. The planes are parked in groups of six along the north side. The field is not enclosed. "Restricted area" signs are located in the vicinity of the field.

Fuel and Ammunition Depots

15. The central fuel depot is located at the south side, 330 meters east of the southwest corner. There are six underground cisterns, protected by earthmounds. [] the cisterns are connected with oil tanks located between hangars 1 and 2, and 2 and 3 by an underground pipeline (see #14). There are 5 ton and 3.5 ton tank trucks on the airfield which are used to fuel airplanes on any part of the airfield.
16. West of hangars 3 and 4, there is a small ammunition depot (see #5). This depot is sunk into the ground and surrounded with an earthmound. Flight weapons and ammunition are allegedly stored here. []
17. There are three oval-shaped ammunition depots of corrugated metal (see #5) inside the barracks complex (see #7).

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25X1Antiaircraft Gun Batteries

18. Earth emplacements (see #9), used only for infantry antiaircraft guns, are located in the following positions:
- a. 250 meters northwest of the southwest corner;
 - b. 300 meters northeast of the northwest corner;
 - c. 450 meters northeast of the northwest corner;

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25X1

-4-

- d. 450 meters northwest of the northeast corner;
 - e. 120 meters east of the east corner; and
 - f. 160 meters southwest of the southeast corner.
19. Concrete emplacements (see #8) are located at the bend of the Yantra River, 500 meters west of the west side, and at the center of the south side. Not all of these positions are occupied. The artillery unit is allegedly stationed in Kazanluk.

Radio, Radar and Weather Station

20. In the control tower (see #11), there is an ultra shortwave station. There is a single rod aerial on the roof of the tower. The aerial resembles an upside down umbrella frame. There are five branches which are simple wires running to the roof, each of which has two insulation balls, with a diameter of seven to eight centimeters. [redacted] there is a permanent radar station four kilometers southwest of Gorna Oryakhovitsa, on hill 401. There are 12 men there to service it. No further details are known. 25X1
21. The air service battalion has a radar platoon with three vehicles, a radar car, radar equipment and an instrument. The radar equipment on the vehicle can be rotated horizontally, and has the appearance of a net mattress. The mobile radar platoon operates mostly on the east side.
22. The weather station (see #12), is located 700 meters east of the east side in a former farm house.

Lighting

23. There are built-in searchlight positions. There are 1800 mm. searchlights on 3-axled ZIS trucks, and there are marker lights on the sides of the airfield which hang from 1.6 meter high posts.

Electric Power

24. The long distance line from Ruse to Sofia goes by the town of Kozarevets, south of the road to Turnovo. There is a 200 volt transformer under the pole at the fork where a cable goes to the airfield.

Highway and Railroad Connection

25. A concrete road leads to the southwest corner of the airfield from the Kaltnets (N 43-09, E 25-42)-Kozarevets-Polyana highway. Two spur lines branch off from the main railroad line 300 meters southwest of the airfield, and leads to the south and west sides.

Training

26. The 8 Bulgarian Fighter Plan Regiment trained a great deal, especially in May and June 1954. Solo take-offs, solo flights and solo landings by FALCONS were very much in evidence. Training was from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Planes flew mostly towards the east and returned after a half hour or three-quarter hour flights, over the west side. There is isolated training in group flying, including take-offs. The airplanes attained exceptional heights up to 5,000 meters. Poor weather did not hinder the maneuvers much. Only FALCONS were engaged in this training. Parachute jumps were prevented by the poor weather, and only four jumps were made in May, although jumps were scheduled for every Tuesday and Friday. Jumps were made over the east side. No equipment or weapons were parachuted.

1. [redacted] Comment: Previous reports indicate that this field is from 2-4 kilometers northeast of Gorna Oryakhovitsa.

25X1

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25X1

-5-

Legend to Sketch on Appendix

1. Take-off direction, gravel, mine slag.
2. Taxi Strip.
3. Hangars.
4. Storage Depot and Repair Shop.
5. Ammunition Depot.
6. Airfield Headquarters.
7. Barracks Complex.
8. Infantry antiaircraft gun positions.
9. Antiaircraft gun positions.
10. Jump Towers.
11. Control Tower.
12. Weather Station.
13. Central Fuel Depot.
14. Gasoline Tanks.
15. Electric power line (long distance).

25X1

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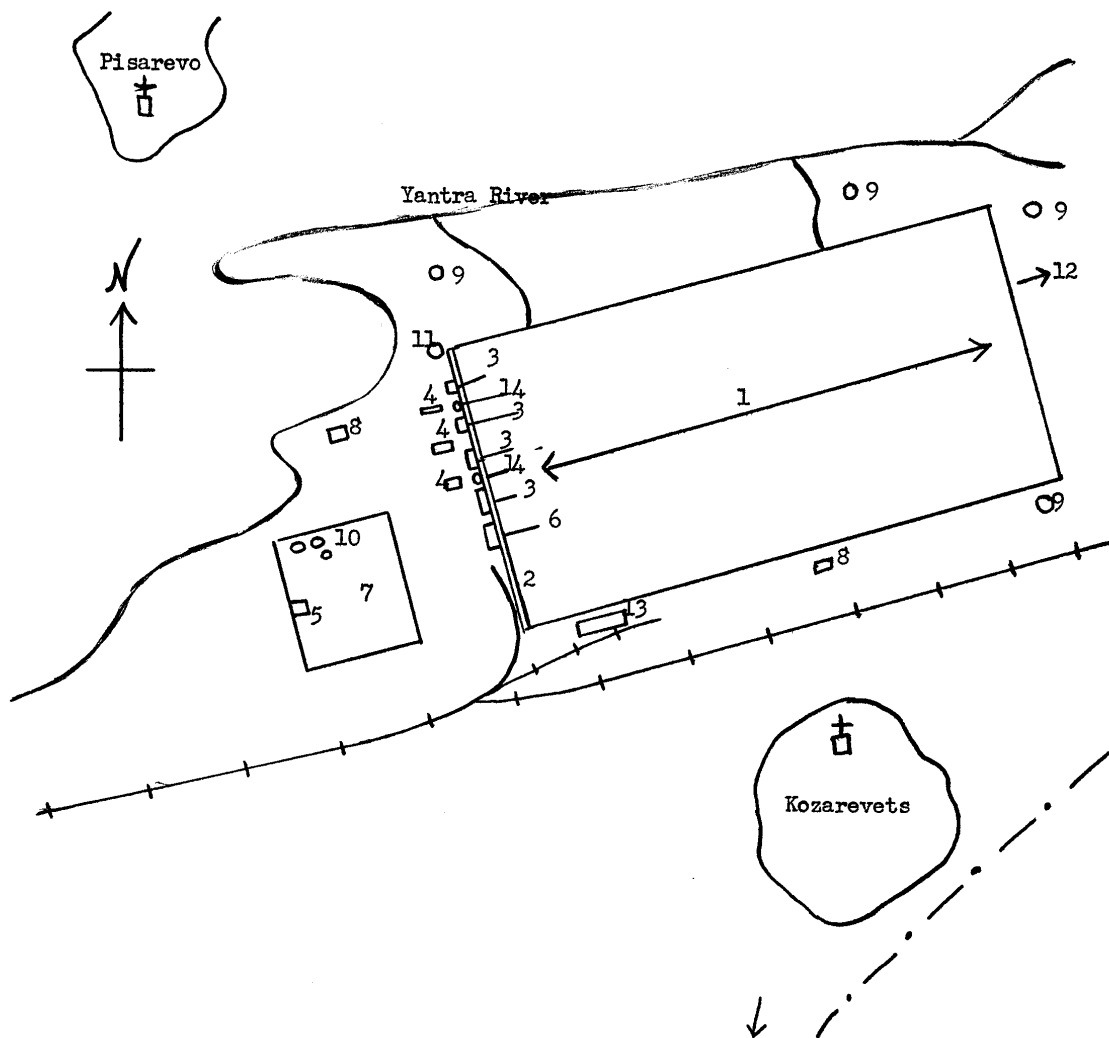
Appendix

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25X1

-6-

Gorna Orvakhovitsa Airfield



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